

SITUATION REPORT NO. 01
INCIDENT NO. 99-068
DATE: August 13, 1999 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms: Heavy rainfall associated with severe summer storms that struck the state on August 11-12 caused street flooding, sewer backup and basement flooding in an area that extended from Adams to Nelson Counties. The additional rainfall compounded problems with high water tables as excess precipitation caused flooding of infrastructure and homes.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: Throughout the evening of August 11 and into morning and afternoon of August 12, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued flash flood advisories and severe weather warnings as a storm front moved across the state. Warnings and advisories were issued for Bowman, Adams, Hettinger, Sioux, Morton, Burleigh, Benson and Nelson Counties. A tornado warning was issued for Adams County during the evening of August 11 when radar indicated a possible tornado five miles northeast of Hettinger, about 41 miles east of Bowman.

During 7 a.m. August 10 to 7 a.m. August 12, the NWS had recorded the following precipitation totals by city: Bismarck, 6.54 inches; Dickinson, 3.54 inches; Jamestown, 3.27 inches; Garrison, 2.42 inches; Hettinger, 1.78 inches; Grand Forks, 2.51 inches; and Fargo, 3.52 inches.

Heavy rainfall early August 12 flooded basements and closed major intersections throughout the city of Bismarck. Burleigh County Emergency Management received 25 reports from homeowners who had experienced water damages to their homes and personal property. The state-federal Disaster Field Office received 12 calls, and North Dakota Emergency Management received 11 calls from Burleigh County residents. In Bismarck, sewer backups were reported on Bowen and Lincoln Avenues. Two homeowners on East Capitol Avenue reported that their basements were filled with water up to the floor joists; a nearby interstate ditch drained into their backyard and a manhole cover popped off. Water also was within inches of Memorial Highway near the Zonta Park in southwest Bismarck. Rainwater flooded the park and threatened to cross over the road toward a mobile home park. Flood waters inundated roads resulting in the following road closures: East Divide at the entrance of Hay Creek Court; the 3500 block of East Divide Avenue; Apple Creek Road, one-quarter mile east of

the livestock ring; West Rosser Avenue and West Main Avenue, where runoff overflowed the Rosa Young Park and flooded the roadways; South 12th Street and Park Avenue. Several other temporary barricades were established early August 12, but removed as water began to recede. The intersection of 26th Street and Morrison Avenue had two inches of water. Drainage canals on South 9th Street and South 3rd Street/Bridgeport were full. Fire Department crews were working to save three homes on West Avenue B. The excess rain will force AppleCreek to near a crest of 14 feet, one foot below flood stage, by August 13, the NWS reported.

In neighboring Morton County, one road was closed near Almont because a bridge washed out. The emergency manager received up to 12 calls from residents who had water in their basement.

Rainfall amounts in Grant County ranged from one to three inches during August 11-12.

In Kidder County, the majority of homes in Steele had water in the basement. The city received 5.5 inches of rain. An area north of Steele was hardest hit with eight inches of rain reported. Runoff damaged roads that had been repaired this spring, now need repair again, some for the third time this year. A Robinson business owner reported a collapsed basement wall.

Foster County officials place preliminary road damages estimates at \$12,000 to \$14,000.

Nelson County officials reported wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour and lightning caused problems with the electrical system in the city of McVile. The hospital generator did not work, leaving the facility without power for 40 minutes until it could be repaired. Rainfall amounts ranged from 1.5 to 2 inches in the northern portion of the county and three to four inches in the southern portion. City streets had some pooling of water, and gravel roads are slippery because of ground saturation.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Agencies responding to storm-related problems include: public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance, city and county commissions and administrative offices.

STATE: Staffs from the N.D. Department of Human Services, North Dakota Emergency Management and State Radio Communications have been monitoring conditions throughout the state.

FEDERAL: National Weather Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel also monitored storm conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION:

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Burleigh County Emergency Operations Center was activated with limited personnel during the rainstorm to assess damages. The Bismarck Forestry Department worked to remove fallen branches, and the Public Works Department set up barricades and filled sandbags for residents. Police officers monitored street conditions, and fire crews helped protect homes.

Bismarck officials reported that the N.D. Department of Health approved the sanitary sewer system bypassing the Missouri River.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED:

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:

9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director